

A CALL TO ACTION: TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE COALITION 2



This is a critical time for wildlife conservation. State fish and wildlife agencies bear the primary responsibility for managing wildlife species, but are almost entirely funded by user fees paid by hunters and anglers. Sportsmen have long been a key pillar of financial support for wildlife conservation. But today, in the face of habitat loss and habitat change due to threats such as invasive species and climate change, management challenges are increasing while traditional revenue sources are not. In addition, 90% of our nation's wildlife is not hunted or fished. These "non-game" species often receive only a trickle of the funding brought in from hunter and angler license fees, even though they constitute the vast majority of America's wildlife. The result? There is a serious gap in wildlife conservation funding, and thousands of species are falling through the cracks.

Congress created the State Wildlife Grants Program in recognition of the need for wildlife conservation funding. This is our nation's primary program to conserve species (non-game as well as game) in a proactive way before they become endangered. The program supports projects that restore and protect priority habitats, research and monitor wildlife populations that may be in danger of decline, and develop partnerships between nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and the state fish and wildlife agencies to protect key habitat. Through the State Wildlife Grants Program, Congress charged all 56 U.S. states and territories with create their own conservation blue-print for wildlife, called Wildlife Action Plans.

State Wildlife Action Plans are proactive strategies that identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need, and, perhaps more importantly, outline the necessary actions to protect them for our children's future. These plans allow for cost-effective, strategic conservation with deliverable results. By protecting species before they decline, we can conserve them before they become increasingly rare and the task more difficult. Wildlife Action Plans, which have now been completed for every state and territory, provide a landmark conservation tool for statewide conservation efforts across the country.

The call to action today is the need for program support and implementation of the Wildlife Action Plans. Through the State Wildlife Grants Program, Congress appropriates funds on an annual basis that each state must now match with its own funding: half of the money for this program comes from federal funds and now that the Wildlife Action Plans have been completed, half must come from the states.

Now, more than ever, our state fish and wildlife agencies can benefit from the support of conservation organizations like yours. Consider joining our Teaming with Wildlife Coalition which aims to partner with our state agency to 1) develop "on-the-ground" conservation projects, 2) coordinate state-based support of this program, and 3) develop a shared agenda for state conservation work using the Wildlife Action Plan as a basis for our work.



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE *a natural investment*

Teaming with Wildlife is a national coalition of more than 5,000 groups working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Together, the coalition works to support increased funding for wildlife conservation and associated recreation and education in every state. The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition includes wildlife biologists, state wildlife agencies, conservationists, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, nature-based businesses, and many others who support the goal of restoring and conserving our nation's wildlife.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, America's once numerous birds, mammals, and fish were largely depleted. In the 1930s, the situation started to improve with an infusion of funding for game and fish species. Wildlife areas were created, habitat actively managed, and wildlife populations were augmented or restored with transplanted animals. Despite these successes, many other species continue to decline, as evidenced by the staggering fact that more than 1,000 species are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Our nation needed a program to conserve wildlife *before* they became endangered.

Five years ago, at the urging of the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition, Congress and the President made an important decision to invest in wildlife and vital natural areas by creating the State Wildlife Grants Program. State Wildlife Grants provide federal money to every state for conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Since its inception, more than \$400 million in federal funding has been matched by at least \$200 million in state and private funds to provide more than \$600 million for wildlife conservation across all 50 states and six territories. Gale Norton, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, recently recognized the State Wildlife Grants Program as "our nation's primary conservation program for keeping species healthy and off the list of threatened and endangered species."

In order to make the best use of funds provided through the State Wildlife Grant Program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a statewide wildlife action plan. These proactive plans will help conserve wildlife and vital natural areas before they become more rare and costly to protect. Under the leadership of state wildlife agencies, the wildlife action plans provide a strategy for conservation across the nation, importantly shaped to the needs of each state.

The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition is now building momentum to ensure state wildlife agencies and their conservation partners have the funding they need to fully implement their state wildlife action plans. The State Wildlife Grant Program is a great start but much more funding will be needed to ensure a national approach to preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. Teaming with Wildlife is committed to securing this funding from federal, state and private sources.

We hope that your organization or business will join us in this critical effort!

Teaming with Wildlife

A coalition of more than 3,000 groups working together to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Montana Teaming with Wildlife Coalition Core Group:

- *Montana Wildlife Federation*
- *National Wildlife Federation*
- *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership*
- *Montana Trout Unlimited*
- *Montana Audubon Council*
- *Montana Association of Land Trusts*
- *Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks*



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

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Montana Teaming with Wildlife Supporters

Last Updated: 12/18/06

1. Adventure Cycling Association
2. Allain Photography, LLC
3. Alternative Energy Resources Organization
4. American Fisheries Society-Montana Chapter
5. American Wildlands (National)
6. Anaconda Sportsmen Club
7. Big Sky Upland Bird Association
8. Big Sky Wildcare
9. Billings Rod & Gun Club
10. Bitter Root Land Trust
11. Bitterroot Audubon Society
12. Boone and Crockett Club (National)
13. Border Group
14. Buck Creek Guide Service
15. Crazy Creek Products, Inc.
16. Custer Rod & Gun Club
17. Fauna West Wildlife Consultants
18. Federation of Fly Fishers
19. Five Valleys Audubon Society
20. Five Valleys Land Trust
21. Flathead Audubon Society
22. Gallatin Valley Land Trust
23. Gallatin Wildlife Association
24. Great Falls Archery Club
25. Greater Yellowstone Coalition
26. Grounded Eagle Foundation, Inc.
27. Heart of the Rockies
28. Helena Hunters & Anglers
29. Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association
30. Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
31. Holton's of Helena, Ltd.
32. Hyalite Outfitters
33. Images on the Wildside
34. International Assn. for Bear Research & Mgmt (National)
35. Last Chance Audubon Society
36. Laurel Rod & Gun Club
37. Meagher County Sportsmen
38. Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals, The
39. Montana Association of Land Trusts
40. Montana Audubon
41. Montana Bald Eagle Working Group
42. Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
43. Montana Environmental Education Association
44. Montana Falconers Association
45. Montana Game Wardens Association
46. Montana Land Reliance
47. Montana Loon Society
48. Montana Natural History Center
49. Montana River Action
50. Montana Society of American Foresters
51. Montana State Parks & Wildlife Interpretative Assn.
52. Montana Wilderness Assoc., Eastern Wildlands Chapter
53. Montana Wildlife Federation
54. National ECO Institute (National)
55. Northern Rockies Natural History
56. Off the Beaten Path
57. Outer Limits Tours
58. Park County Rod & Gun Club
59. Predator Conservation Alliance
60. Prickly Pear Land Trust
61. Public Land & Water Access Assn Inc.
62. Rainy Pass Repair, Inc.
63. Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
64. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (National)
65. Russell County Sportsmen's Association
66. Sacajawea Audubon Society
67. The Conservation Fund-Montana
68. The Nature Conservancy-Montana Chapter
69. The Wildlife Society-Montana Chapter
70. The Wildlife Society-Montana Student Chapter
71. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership - MT
72. Timberline Resources, Inc.
73. Triple-M-Outfitters
74. Trout Unlimited-George Grant Chapter
75. Trout Unlimited-Magic City Fly Fishers
76. Trout Unlimited-Montana Council
77. Trout Unlimited-West Slope Chapter
78. Trust for Public Land-Montana
79. Turner Endangered Species Fund
80. Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society
81. Vital Ground Foundation
82. Walrus and the Carpenter, The
83. Wild Sentry
84. Wild Things Unlimited
85. Wildstock
86. Women's Voices for the Earth
87. Yellowstone Safari Company
88. Zoo Montana

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